

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~comprising: for distributing data to at least a selected one of a plurality of potential instant message clients; the method comprising:~~
~~—— transmitting an identifier of a first client to an instant messaging server coordinating communication with at least the selected instant message client;~~
~~—— determining a first location for the first client; and~~
~~transmitting first receiving, by a first instant messaging client, the a first location offer~~
~~the first instant messaging client to the instant messaging server;~~
~~second receiving, by the first instant messaging client, from an instant messaging server a second location of a second instant messaging client;~~
~~determining, by the first instant messaging client, a proximity of the first and second locations; and~~
~~automatically executing an application program, by the first instant messaging client, if the proximity meets a pre-determined threshold.~~
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
~~transmitting, by the first instant messaging client, to the instant messaging server the first location; and~~

receiving, by the first instant messaging client, an advertisement from the instant messaging server, the advertisement having been determined for the first instant messaging client based on the first location~~responsive to transmitting the first location.~~

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

displaying, by the first instant messaging client, an initial icon indicating an initial status of the selected first and second instant messaging clients; and

displaying, by the first instant messaging client, a revised icon corresponding to location changes of the first and second instant messaging clients~~the second location.~~

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the initial icon is a selected one of: an offline indicator, an online indicator, and an emoticon.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the revised icon is a selected one of: a country identifier, a state identifier, a government seal, a flag, a building identifier, and a user identifier.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the revised icon comprises a proximity map including a marker identifying the relative position of the second location to the first location when the second location is proximate to the first location.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the marker is a selected one of: a country identifier, a state identifier, a government seal, a flag, a building identifier, and a user identifier.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising: ~~a machine-accessible media having associated data for distributing data to at least a selected one of a plurality of potential instant message clients, wherein the data, when accessed, results in a machine performing:~~

a storage medium; and

a plurality of programming instructions stored on the storage medium and configured to enable a first instant messaging client to

first receive a first location of the first instant messaging client,

second receive from an instant messaging server a second location of a second instant messaging client,

determine a proximity of the first and second locations, and

automatically execute an application program if the proximity meets a pre-

determined threshold~~transmitting an identifier of a first client to an instant messaging server coordinating communication with at least the selected instant message client;~~

~~_____determining a first location for the first client; and~~

~~_____transmitting the first location for the first client to the instant messaging server.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 15 wherein programming instructions are further configured to enable the first instant messaging client to~~the machine accessible media further includes data, when accessed, results in the machine performing:~~

transmit to the instant messaging server the first location; and

_____receive an advertisement from the instant messaging server, the advertisement having been determined for the first instant messaging client based on the first location~~receiving an advertisement from the instant messaging server responsive to transmitting the first location.~~

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A ~~system~~ first instant messaging client comprising:

an instant messaging server a processor; and

_____logic to be operated by the processor to

first receive a first location of the first instant messaging client.

second receive from an instant messaging server a second location of a second instant messaging client.

determine a proximity of the first and second locations. and

automatically execute an application program if the proximity meets a pre-determined threshold.

~~— a first instant messaging client communicatively coupled with the instant messaging server, wherein the first instant messaging client is configured to provide a first location for the first instant messaging client to the instant messaging server;~~

~~— a second instant messaging client communicatively coupled with the first instant messaging client and the instant messaging server, wherein the second instant messaging client is configured to provide a second location for the second instant messaging client to the instant messaging server~~

23. (Original) The system first instant messaging client of claim 22, further comprising: wherein the logic is further to

transmit to the instant messaging server the first location, and

receive an advertisement from the instant messaging server, the advertisement having been determined for the first instant messaging client based on the first location—~~an advertisement server communicatively coupled with at least the instant messaging server, wherein the advertisement server is configured to provide an advertisement determined based at least in part on instant message client locations provided to the advertisement server by the instant messaging server.~~

24. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the first instant messaging client is associated with a category, and a level of detail associated with the received second location provided by the instant messaging server is based at least in part on the category.